

## **HEAD AND NECK PROTECTION**

**1722**

(No. 11 Dec. 1997)

When employees are exposed to a hazard that might result in a head or neck injury, they will be provided with, and required to wear, the appropriate protective equipment.

## **PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS**

**1722.1**

(No. 38 September 2002)

When involved in fire suppression activities or when facing the possibility of exposure to electrical shock, falling or flying objects, or other hazards that might result in a head injury, fire suppression personnel must wear the appropriate head protection, such as a safety helmet.

When operating a bulldozer during fire suppression activities or other activities when the air is contaminated with dust or smoke, Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEOs) will wear filtered air-supplied helmets. The only exceptions will be:

- When operating an enclosed cab dozer with a filtered air supply system.
- During emergencies when operating a rental dozer that is not equipped with a filtered air supply system.
- When a dozer's air supply system fails.

In such situations, the HFEO must wear a safety helmet with Nomex shroud (or equivalent) and ear protection.

When engaged in wildland fire suppression activities, each employee shall wear the CAL FIRE issued double-layered nomex shroud in addition to their safety helmet. The shroud, or other objects of clothing, such as bandanas, shall not be stuffed into the safety helmet. This practice reduces air circulation, thereby increasing heat stress.

Where there is a risk of hair entanglement from moving machinery or exposure to toxic contaminants or combustibles, workers must confine their hair.

## HEAD AND NECK PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

1722.2

(July 2001)

The protective equipment provided must meet the minimum standards required by CCR, Title 8, Sections:

- 3403 for structural firefighting
- 3410 for wildland firefighting
- 3381 for other (non-firefighting) circumstances requiring head protection.

The standard safety helmet provided by the department must be made of high heat-resistant material with headlamp clips, nape strap, and chin strap as standard attachments.

When a safety helmet is issued, it must be inspected to ensure that a serviceable and sanitized headband and chin strap are included.

## FACIAL PROTECTORS

1722.2.1

(No. 38 September 2002)

The voluntary use of commercially-manufactured wildland facial protectors is permitted for critical wildland fire situations. The facial protector shall only be used when you might encounter critical fire behavior and potential entrapment situations. They are not to be used during normal firefighting activities.

Facial protectors shall be used with the department's double-layered shroud. Facial protectors **shall not** be worn independently.

## MAINTENANCE

1722.3

(July 2001)

To assure personal cleanliness, each employee will keep the helmet headband and chin strap clean by washing with a warm detergent soap solution and rinsing in cold water. Replace any safety helmet or accessory material when it loses its strength or deteriorates through use and time. Also, replace any helmet that receives a hard blow.

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)